



## Hardly a “Black” Canyon

Shadowy depths and dark metamorphic rocks gave the Black Canyon its ominous name. Whether you are boating on Blue Mesa Reservoir in Curecanti National Recreation Area, peering over the rim at Chasm View in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, or hiking the Chukar Trail in Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, you will see a spectrum of colors splashed across the canyon. Let’s travel through time to understand the colorful mosaic of the Black Canyon.

Geologists tell us that nearly two billion years ago, dark hues of gneiss and schist were forming in the earth’s crust. As these dark rocks cracked beneath the surface, pink pegmatite squeezed into the fissures, creating the patterns obvious at Painted Wall at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. For 1.5 billion years, sediments were deposited above these “basement” rocks.

In the Mesozoic era, color was added to the Precambrian rocks in the form of sand dunes turned to sandstone. Later, an inland sea left behind mud, which became Mancos Shale, seen in the “adobes” on the edge of Gunnison Gorge.

The Rocky Mountains formed about 65 million years ago. This event forced upward the black and pink Precambrian rocks and red Mesozoic layers in the Gunnison Uplift. From 18 to 30 million years ago volcanoes in West Elk and San Juan mountains spewed pewter-colored ash over the Gunnison Uplift, which trapped the water and the cutting of the canyon began!

The Gunnison River now cuts through a rainbow of sedimentary rocks as it pools into Curecanti’s reservoirs on its way to the Colorado River.



Boaters enjoy the pleasant breezes and the deep water of Blue Mesa Reservoir.



The expansive canyons of Gunnison Gorge invite hikers to explore this wild place.

The river makes its dramatic descent through pink pegmatite dikes and metamorphic cliffs, carving the Black Canyon. At last, it winds through the sienna mesas and dusky hills of the Gunnison Gorge, having completed its trip through nearly 50 miles of canyon wilderness.

As you travel through the Gunnison Country, watch for the hues that represent the region’s geologic history and the ecological overlay of greens, browns and blues. Enjoy your journey through shadows, sunlight, and the waters of Black Canyon and discover all of the colors it has to offer.

## Welcome to the Gunnison Country

It is a pleasure to welcome you to these spectacular areas. We hope you will enjoy much of the magnificent scenery and recreation that these resources have to offer. Understanding the unique qualities of these areas will enhance your appreciation and enjoyment.

It is our aim to preserve the character of the lands that you find in this part of Colorado long into the future. There are many challenges in balancing all of the needs of the natural world and of the public. There are many uses for the water flowing down the Gunnison -- agriculture, power, recreation, and natural fisheries. This water is also essential to preserving the natural systems that have existed in the Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge for thousands and in some cases, millions of years.

The National Conservation Area offers picnic areas, river access, and off-road vehicle, horseback, and hiking trails. The inner canyons make up the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness, in which visitors enjoy rafting, Gold Medal trout fishing, and backcountry camping.

These places are your places. The natural and cultural resources are part of your inheritance from the past. Together we can leave them as a legacy for generations yet to come.

William E. Wellman Superintendent, Curecanti and Black Canyon	Karen Tucker Manager, Gunnison Gorge
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## We’re on the Web

Visit the parks all year from the comfort of your home computer.

**Black Canyon:**  
<http://www.nps.gov/blca>

**Curecanti:**  
<http://www.nps.gov/cure>

**Gunnison Gorge:**  
<http://www.co.blm.gov/ggnca>

## What’s Inside?

Learn more about what is going on at these parks by reading about planning your visit on page 2, boating and hiking on page 3, what’s new at Cimarron on page 4, Dinosaur discoveries in Curecanti on page 5, and by using page 7 to help you find your way around. The Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service are working to protect and manage these resources for the benefit of the American people.

## Playing it Safe

Safety is often not on everyone’s mind while visiting parks, but it is a very important part of any trip. Remember to check with rangers for current information on conditions and potential safety hazards in all three areas. Be aware of hiking and boating safety and regulations, and also, be cautious around all wildlife, water, and any steep cliffs. Keep young ones close. Please enjoy a safe visit to these amazing lands.

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National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park  
Curecanti National Recreation Area**

Taken together, Black Canyon and Curecanti offer nearly 75,000 acres of plunging canyons, knife-edged cliffs, wide open vistas, water sports and beauty enough for the eye to behold. There are many recreational opportunities for you to enjoy and by which you will be challenged at these two National Park Service units.

**Mailing Address**

Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP  
Curecanti NRA  
102 Elk Creek  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**Phone and E-mail**

(970) 641-2337  
cure\_info@nps.gov

**Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area**

The Gunnison Gorge NCA provides 63,000 acres of rugged, beautiful landscapes and challenges. High clearance vehicles are recommended. There are very few services so be prepared to be self sufficient.

**Mailing Address**

Gunnison Gorge NCA  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401

**Phone and E-mail**

(970) 240-5300  
colorado\_webmaster@co.blm.gov

# Planning Your Visit

**VISITOR CENTERS**

There are several visitor centers designed to help you learn more about the resources throughout the areas.

The **South Rim Visitor Center**, located at Gunnison Point in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, is open every day of the year, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Summer hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Winter hours are 8:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

The **Elk Creek Visitor Center**, at Curecanti National Recreation Area, is open every day from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Winter hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The **Cimarron Visitor Center** is open Memorial Day through Labor Day, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The **Lake Fork Visitor Center** will be open intermittently.

**CAMPING**

**Black Canyon**

There are two campgrounds, one on each rim. Loop A in the South Rim Campground is open all year. Sites in loop B are equipped with electrical hookups, but is only open in the summer. The North Rim Campground will sometimes fill, but the South Rim Campground almost never does. Loops

A and C and North Rim sites are \$12.00 per site per night. Loop B is \$18.00 per site per night. Loops and B can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS). For more information, please call (877) 444-6777 or go to [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com). Sites may be reserved up to 240 days in advance for regular sites and 360 days in advance for group sites. Golden Age Pass discounts apply to all camping fees.

**Curecanti**

You will find several campgrounds with boat-in, drive-in and hike-in possibilities. Group camping is available at Red Creek and East Elk Creek. Electric hookups are available in Loop D at the Elk Creek Campground. The camping fee at Curecanti is \$12.00 per site per night. Loop D is \$18.00 per night. Reservations can be made for Lake Fork, Elk Creek, Stevens Creek sites, and for the East Elk Creek and Red Creek group sites through NRRS. See above for details about the reservation process. Golden Age Pass discounts apply to all camping fees.

**Gunnison Gorge**

Vehicle camping is permitted outside the wilderness area on a first come, first served basis. Picnic tables and fire grates are available at the Chukar, Duncan, and

Ute trailheads and at the Gunnison Forks Day Use Area. Campsites, showers, and other services are available at the Gunnison River Pleasure Park at the Gunnison Forks. Camping in the wilderness area is first come, first served, and is allowed in designated sites only. Sites are marked with posts with blue (boater) or green (hiker) tops. Wilderness camping fees (payable at trailheads): \$10.00 per person for 1 night, \$15.00 per person for 2 nights (maximum allowable stay). The camping fee applies to all users, ages 16 and older within the Gunnison Gorge NCA.

**WHAT ABOUT FIDO?**

Pets in the Gunnison Gorge NCA must be under their owner’s control at all times. Pets are permitted in Curecanti, but must be leashed at all times.

In Black Canyon pets on a six- foot leash may be walked on roads, in campgrounds, to the overlooks, and are allowed on the Rim Rock and Chasm View Nature Trails. Pets are not allowed on any other trails, inner canyon routes or in the wilderness area of the national park. Owners are responsible for their pet’s behavior. Please, clean up after your pet. Do not leave your pet unattended in a vehicle or campsite. Boarding services are available in the area.



## Hey Kids - Be a Junior Ranger

Help take care of your national treasures! Anyone between the ages of 5 and 12 can become a Junior Park Ranger at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park or Curecanti National Recreation Area. There are challenging activities in the Junior Ranger books that you can do while visiting either park. Learn more about the stuff that makes these places so amazing and unique. If you are under the age of 5, you can become a Curecanti Ranger Buddy. Stop by the Elk Creek, Cimarron, or South Rim Visitor Centers for more information.



## Cutting Edge Technology at Black Canyon

Are you visiting the South Rim of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park? If so, there is a new activity available to you. It is an Electronic Tour of the South Rim overlooks.

Picture this: you’re standing at Devil’s Overlook, and wondering what stories lurk out there in the depths of the canyon. With an electronic device that you rented at the South Rim Visitor Center, you can have your choice of stories: geologic illustration, recreational activities, natural history, and epic human experiences. You cue up the hand-held mechanism, look into the screen that brings you full-size images and you receive a thrilling narration of the scene.

The service is brought to you through a partnership with Voice Viewer Technologies, a Wyoming-based company that has supplied a variety of technological services across the country, particularly in the field of medicine.

Stop at the South Rim Visitor Center at Black Canyon to find out more. The units will be available by early June, and they will add much more to your experience.

## Boat Tours Into the Black Canyon of the Gunnison

Join a Park Ranger for a leisurely boat tour on the Morrow Point Reservoir, traveling seven miles into the famous Black Canyon of the Gunnison where the majestic canyon walls will tower 1,800 feet above you. Hear the stories of the canyon’s geologic history, its wildlife, the rugged early inhabitants, the amazing narrow gauge railroad and the present day dams and reservoirs.

**Logistics**

The National Park Service operated tour boat is a stable 40-foot, 42-passenger pontoon boat. Tours are offered twice daily except Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. Tours begin at the Pine Creek Boat Dock, located 35 miles east of Montrose, 25 miles west of Gunnison, at US Highway 50 mile marker 130. From the Pine Creek parking lot, you will walk down 232 steps, then enjoy an easy ½ mile scenic walk along the old narrow gauge rail bed before reaching the boat dock. We suggest starting down the steps about one hour before your scheduled tour, allowing more time if you need a slower pace. Plan to meet the Park Ranger at the boat dock at least 15 minutes before your scheduled departure.

**What to Bring**

Dress for the Colorado mountains, where a sunny day can quickly become stormy. Bring drinking water, snacks, sun protection, rain protection, and your camera. For security reasons, carry-on bags and packs are subject to search. Pets, smoking, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the tour.

**Prepaid Reservations are Required**

Prepaid reservations are required, and are sometimes still available early on the day of the tour. Call 970-641-2337, ext 205, or visit the Elk Creek Visitor Center in the Curecanti National Recreation Area. Persons arriving at the boat dock without a prepaid reservation will not be permitted on the tour. Cost is:

- \$15.00 for adults
- \$7.50 for adults who possess a Golden Age or Golden Access Pass
- \$7.50 for infants and children under age 13





# Boating Information

## CURECANTI NATIONAL RECREATION AREA REQUIREMENTS

These regulations apply to Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs:

- Personal flotation devices (lifejackets) are required for everyone on board any vessel. PFDs can save lives, but only if they are worn!
- One Type IV throwable flotation device for boats 16 feet and greater.
- Sound-producing device (such as a horn).
- Lights for dusk to dawn operation.
- An NPS Boat permit is required for motorized vessels on Blue Mesa Reservoir.
- Motorized vessels need to be registered in their home state.
- A fire extinguisher (unless boat is of open construction and less than 26 feet long).

## GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

This lower section of the Gunnison River is classified as Class III-IV depending on water flows. The following regulations apply to river running in the Gunnison Gorge:

- Boaters must pay fees at the Chukar Trailhead and register at the Chukar boat put-in site.
- All boaters must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved whitewater (Type I, II, III, or V) PFD.

- Rafts must carry an extra paddle, first aid kit, repair kit, and an extra PFD.
- Portable toilets and stoves or firepans with charcoal are mandatory for overnight boating parties.
- Private motorized crafts prohibited.
- Maximum stay in the wilderness is two nights. Boaters may spend only one night per designated campsite.

## BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK

The Gunnison River through the national park is extremely dangerous due to difficult rapids and the many grueling, poison ivy-covered portages. However, well prepared kayakers will find the canyon challenging and exhilarating. Because the river is classified as a Class V to unnavigable, the following are required:

- All boaters must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved whitewater (Type I, II, III, or V) PFD.
- Wood fires are prohibited. Camp stoves are permitted.
- Pack out everything, including trash, used toilet paper, and cigarette butts.
- Obtain a backcountry permit at the South Rim Visitor Center or the East Portal bulletin board at the put-in.
- It is wise to take along an experienced kayaker who has been down this stretch of the river before.



Both anglers and boaters alike enjoy the scenic beauty of Blue Mesa Reservoir. Before heading out for the day, check weather conditions and boating and fishing regulations.

Activities			
	Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP	Curecanti NRA	Gunnison Gorge NCA
Visitor Center	●	●	
Ranger Programs	●	●	
Picnic Areas	●	●	●
Boat Rentals		●	
Boat Tours		●	
Backcountry/ Wilderness Permits	●		●
Developed Camping	●	●	
Backcountry Camping	●	●	●
Group Camping		●	
Showers		●	
Fishing (Lake)		●	
Fishing (river/stream)	●	●	●
Hiking	●	●	●
Rock Climbing	●	●	
Horse Trail	●	●	●
Kayaking (river)	●		●
Rafting (river)			●
Personal Water Craft	See page 5		
Motorboats/Sailing		●	
Windsurfing		●	
Hunting		●	●
Snowmobiling		●	
Cross-country Skiing	●	●	●
Mountain Biking			●
4WD/Off-Highway Vehicle Area			●
Groceries		●	
Restaurant/Snacks		●	

Let’s go for a Hike!				
Trail	Mileage (Round Trip)	Difficulty	Elevation Change	Description
Black Canyon				
Dead Horse	6.5 (10.5km)	Easy/Moderate	120ft (36.5m)	One of the park’s longer trails offering views of steep cliffs and pinnacles.
Rim Rock	2 (3.2km)	Moderate	N/A	Hike along the canyon rim on this self-guided nature trail.
Warner Point	1.5 (2.4km)	Moderate	100ft (30.5m)	Hike through the pinyon/juniper woodland for views of the San Juan Mountains.
Chasm View	1/3 (0.54km)	Moderate	N/A	View the narrowest part of Black Canyon from the end of this short nature trail.
North Vista	7 (11.3km)	Strenuous	840 ft (256m)	Wind your way to the summit of Green Mountain for sweeping vistas.
Oak Flat	2 (3.2km)	Strenuous	400 ft (122m)	Hike through the oak shrublands, aspen, and Douglas-fir forests on the south rim.
Curecanti				
Neversink	1.5 (2.4km)	Easy	N/A	Enjoy a great wildlife watching trail; look for herons and other animals.
Mesa Creek	1.5 (2.4km)	Easy/Moderate	N/A	Follow a footbridge over the Gunnison River to view the sheer canyon walls.
Crystal Creek	5 (9km)	Moderate	N/A	Hike through oak and aspen for a ridgetop view of Crystal Reservoir.
Dillon Pinnacles	4 (6.6km)	Moderate	600 ft (182.9m)	Wander through the sagebrush and conifers to the stunning Dillon Pinnacles.
Pine Creek	2 (3.2km)	Moderate	180 ft (54.8m)	Hike the old railroad bed along Pine Creek to Morrow Point Reservoir.
Curecanti Creek	4 (6.6km)	Strenuous	900 ft (274.3m)	Follow the banks of Curecanti Creek for great views of the 700 ft. Curecanti Needle.
Hermits Rest	6 (10km)	Very Strenuous	1800 ft (548.6m)	Hike through oak and pine, descending to picnic spots on Morrow Point Reservoir
Gunnison Gorge				
Chukar	2.2 (3.5km)	Moderate	560 ft (170.7m)	Great views of the Gorge from rock outcrops along the descent to the river.
Ute	9 (14.5km)	Moderate	1200 ft (365.7m)	Offers great views of the river and Gorge from this long, but rewarding hike.
Bobcat	3 (4.8km)	Strenuous	800 ft (243.8m)	This trail is less developed and steep, but provides river access.
Duncan	3 (4.8km)	Strenuous	840 ft (256m)	This heavily traveled trail is also steep, but easier to follow to the river.



Black Canyon Backcountry Regulations

- Permits (at no charge) are required for ALL inner canyon use.
- Reservations are required for Red Rock Canyon and a \$4.00 park entrance fee is charged at the trailhead. Contact (970) 641-2337 ext. 205
- Pets are prohibited from the inner canyon wilderness area and on all inner canyon routes.
- Possession of firearms and hunting are prohibited.
- A valid Colorado fishing license is required. Gold Medal Water regulations apply.
- Collecting wood, flowers, plants, animals, antlers, historical artifacts, and/or rocks is prohibited.
- Follow Leave No Trace ethics.
- Use pit toilets if available. If not, bury human waste six inches deep and away from the river. Or use travel toilets available at the Visitor Center.
- Wood fires are prohibited.
- Include these items in your pack:
  - Extra food and clothing
  - Plenty of water or a filter
  - Camp stove and matches
  - Basic First Aid Kit
  - Map

Of Railroads and Restoration

When Captain John W. Gunnison explored the Gunnison Basin in 1853 looking for a railroad route to the west, he described the Black Canyon region as the “roughest, most hilly, and most cut-up” land he’d ever seen. He proclaimed that there would never be a railroad built there. Just a few decades later, he was proven wrong.

By 1882, a narrow gauge railroad wound its way through 15 miles of the Black Canyon, treating passengers to the wonders of the Denver and Rio Grande’s “Scenic Line of the World.” For several decades the railroad transported the products of Colorado’s mines and ranches as well as passengers, but eventually competition from standard gauge railroads and trucking led to its demise. In 1949 it ceased operation, and by 1968, the rail bed was drowned below the waters of Morrow Point Reservoir.

The memory of the railroad is very much alive. Visitors driving along Highway 50 will glimpse a reconstructed stockyard at Cimarron, complete with his-

toric rail stock. If you venture just a mile further into the canyon, you’ll be treated to the sight of Engine 278, rail stock, and a caboose atop an historic rail truss over Cimarron Creek.

These historic rail cars and engine, some of which are on loan from the City of Montrose, have been restored to their historic appearance, evoking images of a bygone era.

During the time when this rolling stock was in use, it would have been constantly maintained. Today wind, rain, snow, freezing temperatures, gravity, and time are continuously wearing on them. In 2005, the National Park Service, in partnership with Montrose and the University of Colorado at Denver, took the first steps toward creating a plan to restore and maintain these precious pieces of our heritage. The goal is to find a way to

preserve the rail pieces while continuing to make them available to inspire future generations. Check back in the coming years to watch the preservation process as it progresses.

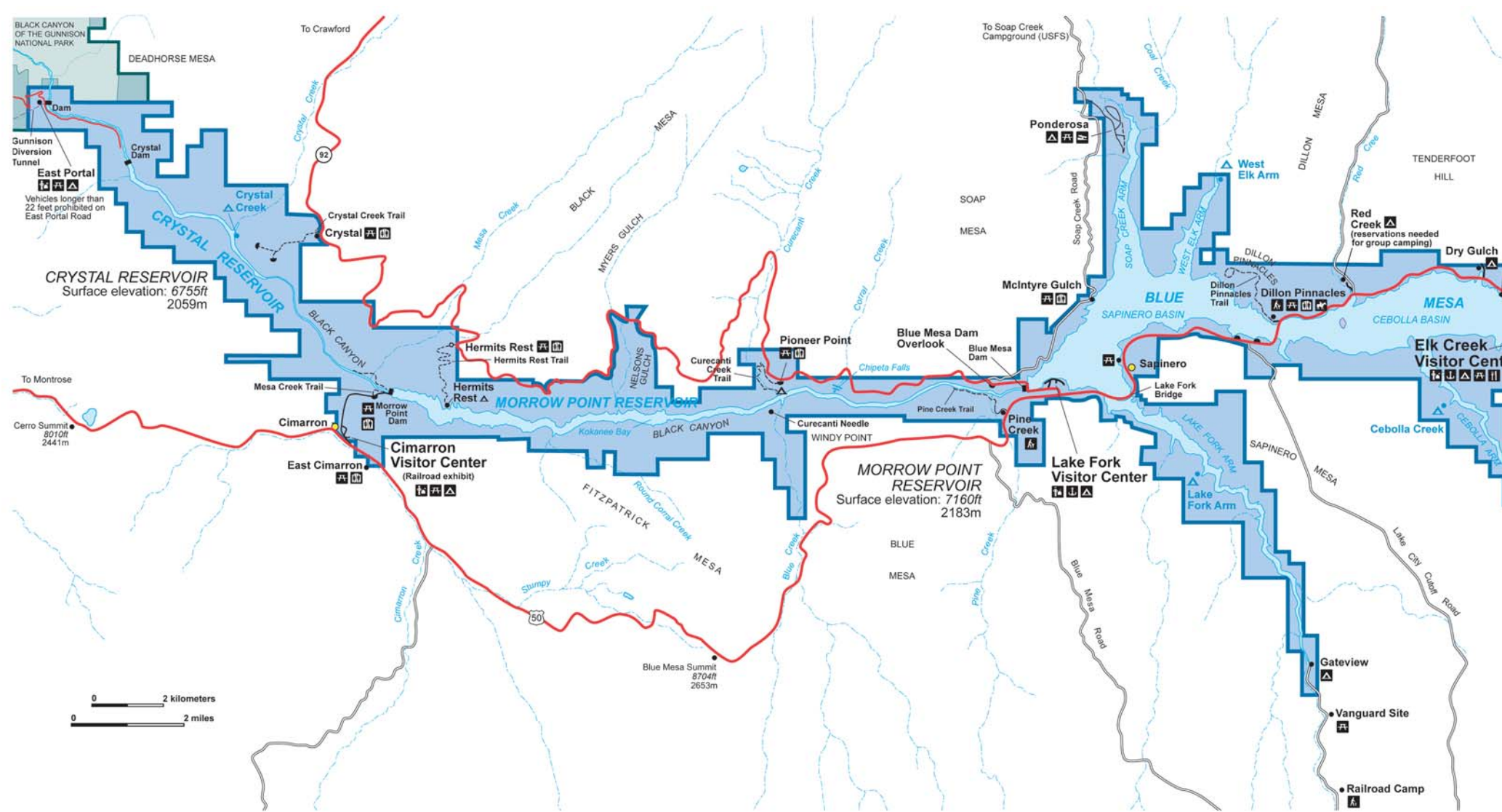
Although the clickity-clack of the Denver and Rio Grande may no longer echo through the Black Canyon, with careful planning and preservation work, these pieces of the past will continue to reflect that rich history for years to come.



Engine 278 stands over Cimarron Creek waiting for visitors to explore the rich railroad history it represents.

Curecanti National Recreation Area

The map below is designed for general travel only. It should not be used for trips into the backcountry.





# Digging in the Dirt

Imagine a world where herds of migrating dinosaurs trample across underground termite nests while crocodiles slide on their bellies into water. Here at Curecanti National Recreation Area, there's no need to imagine. This world exists all around you and can be found in the rock record.

Park staff and other scientists have worked together discovering fossil remains in the park since 1994. Fossil plants, insect burrows, and reptiles (including dinosaurs) have been found in the rocks.

Dinosaur fossils, dating back some 150 million years ago, are awesome examples of the unique creatures that used to live on earth. A variety of dinosaurs have been found at Curecanti. Giant sauropod dinosaurs with long tails and necks roamed this area. Upright theropod dinosaurs (similar to *Tyrannosaurus rex*) hunted and scavenged here.

Paleontologists have even discovered Colorado's state fossil in the park. Do you know what

it is? It's the dinosaur with plates running along the back and tail...*Stegosaurus*!

Black Canyon and Curecanti both house a wealth of fossil resources and park staff are working hard to discover what they can teach us about the past and the future.

Fossils have a lot to teach us about earth's history and are protected park resources. If you encounter fossils while on your visit to the park, leave them in place and tell a ranger. Park staff can examine the found item and use it to teach others about our fascinating planet.



Dr. John Foster, paleontologist for the Museum of Western Colorado, and National Park Service paleontological technician Alison Koch record data and collect fossils for Black Canyon and Curecanti's Museum Collection.

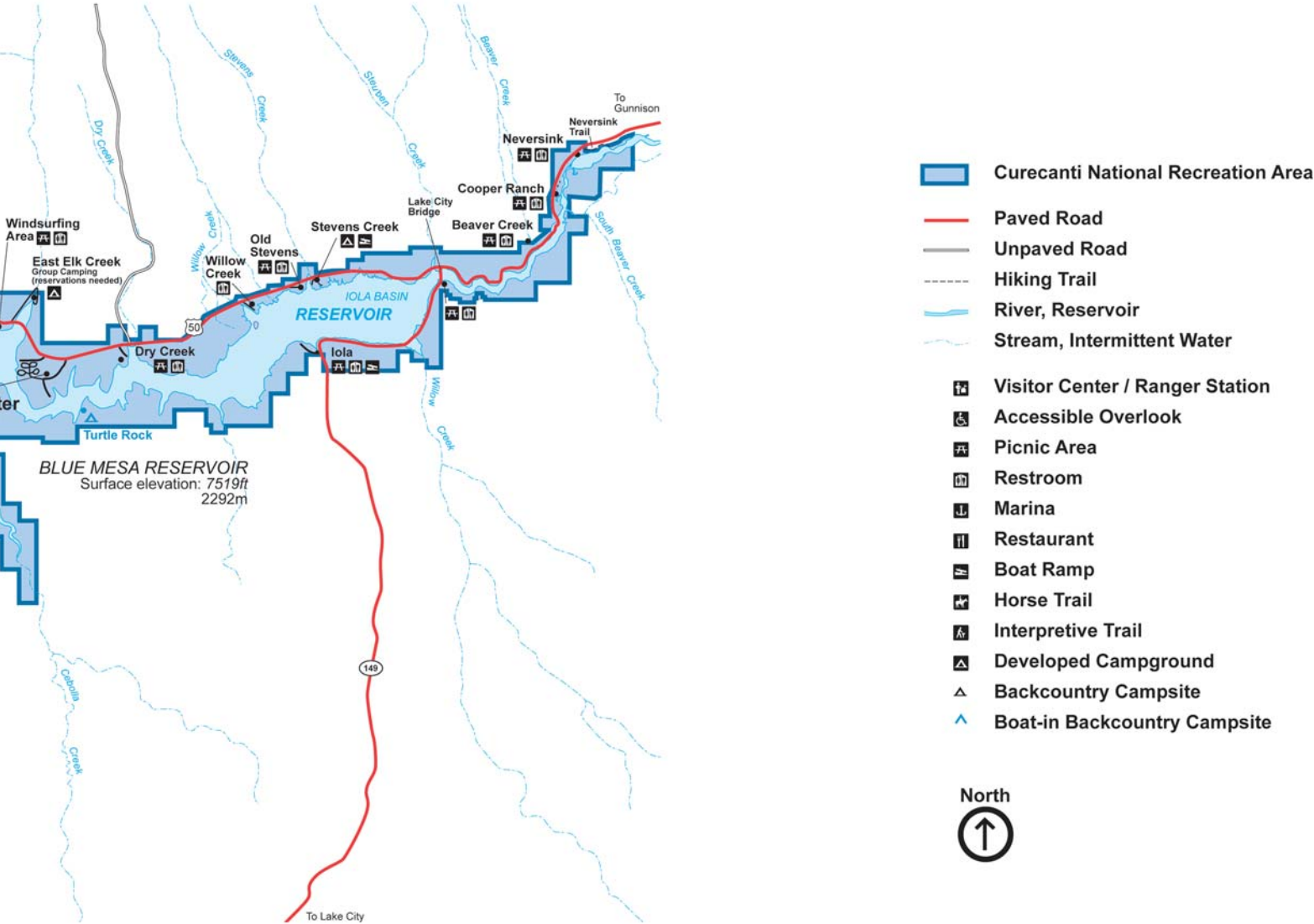
## NPS Search and Recovery Dive Team

Imagine this scene: it's a hot summer afternoon, the sun is sparkling on the blue water, and boats, water-skiers and fishermen are visible as far as the eye can see. This is a typical summer day at Blue Mesa Reservoir, which is a popular destination in the state of Colorado for water-related activities.

However, weather and water conditions can change quickly, sometimes without warning. What would happen in the case of an emergency? If this thought has ever crossed your mind amidst the multitude of boats, then you'll be glad to know that the National Park Service (NPS) Search and Recovery Dive Team is ready and able to respond to the emergency.

Curecanti NRA and Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP dive team members have been trained in and assist with underwater search, rescue, and recovery procedures. The NPS divers have collaborated with the local sheriff's office, the Mt. Crested Butte Police Department, and the New Mexico State Police on various underwater missions.

The National Park Service is a proponent of water safety, encouraging children to wear their life jackets and requiring boaters to have all safety equipment onboard their vessels.



## Personal Water Craft Use at Curecanti

Folks who use personal water craft (PWC), or jetskis on Blue Mesa Reservoir may not know that the waters have been closed to their use since the fall of 2002. This was due to a court ordered settlement agreement between the National Park Service and Bluewater Network.

The National Park Service has completed an environmental assessment (EA) to determine if and how PWC use will continue on Blue Mesa Reservoir. An environmental assessment is a document that presents the issues and concerns important to a project and presents alternative ways of completing the project. It also explores the possible impacts of each of those alternatives.

The National Park Service is in the process of proposing special regulations to manage PWC use on Blue Mesa Reservoir. It is uncertain when the rulemaking process will be complete.

For those who have been waiting, we appreciate your patience.





Inviting canyons and the blue-green waters of the Gunnison River draw visitors to hike, raft, and kayak in Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

## Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Regulations

All areas below the canyon rims from the National Park boundary to approximately two miles north of the Smith Fork confluence are designated as wilderness. Please check maps.

- All wilderness visitors are required to register and pay user fees.
- Camping within the river corridor is allowed in designated sites only.
- Maximum group size is 12 people.
- Maximum stay length for all users is two nights. Boaters may only stay one night at any boater campsite.
- Wood fires are prohibited in the wilderness and the entire river corridor to the North Fork confluence. Firepans with charcoal or camp stoves are required for overnight visitors. Pack out ashes.
- Washable, reusable toilet systems are required for all overnight boaters and groups on horseback. A dump station is provided at the Gunnison Forks.
- All trash must be packed out, including cigarette butts. Strain all dishwater before returning it to the river.
- Motorized river craft are prohibited in the wilderness area.
- Mountain bikes and motorized vehicles are prohibited below the canyon rim.
- Commercial operators must be permitted by the BLM and carry a copy of the permit while in the Gunnison Gorge.

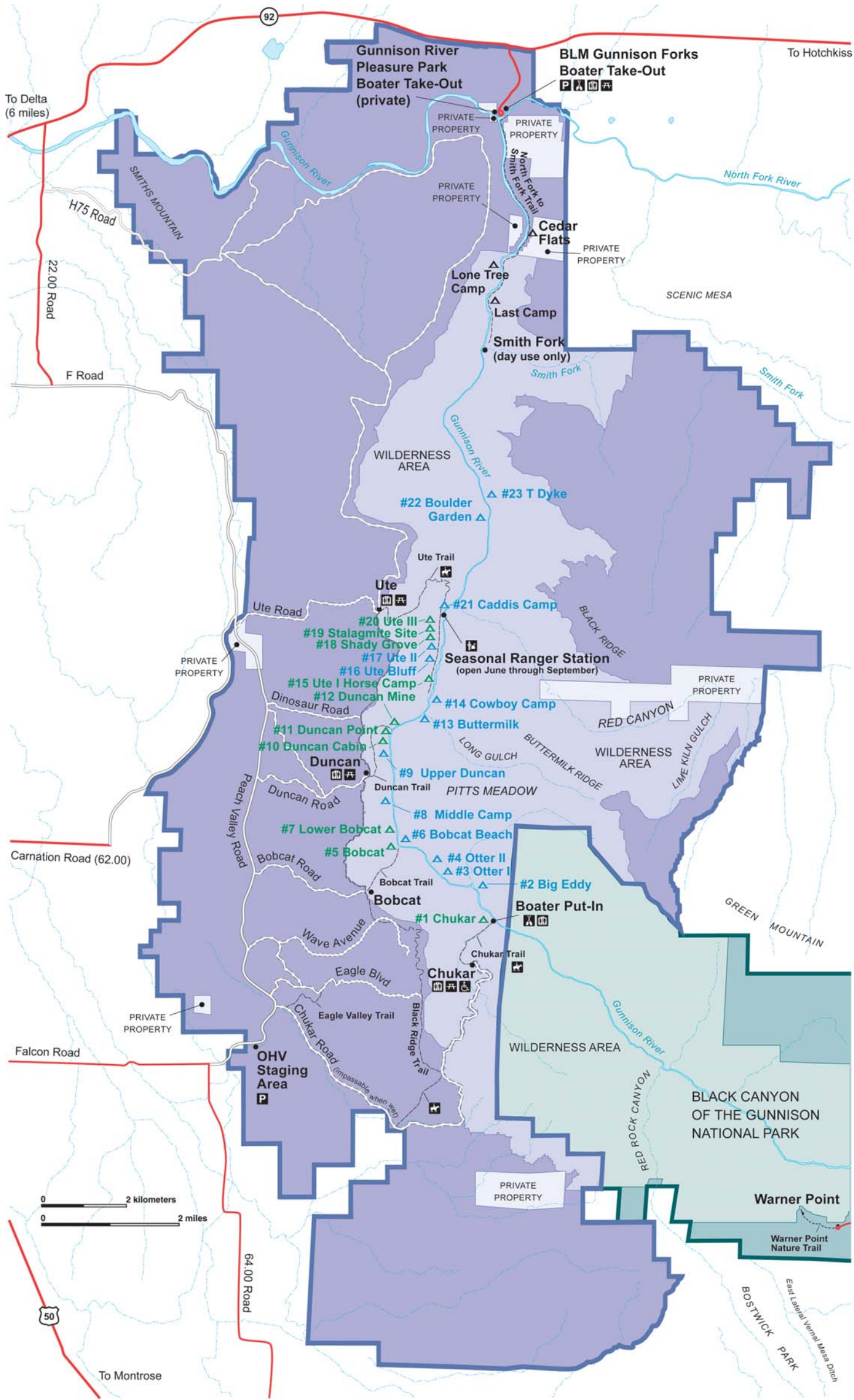
## Gold Medal Fishing Regulations

These regulations apply from 200 yards downstream of Crystal Dam to the North Fork Confluence.

- Fish with artificial lures and flies only.
- Return all brown trout 12-16 inches in length to the water immediately.
- Brown trout bag and possession limit is four fish or less, 12 inches or less, OR three fish less than 12 inches and one fish 16 inches or longer.
- All rainbow trout caught must be returned to the water immediately.

# Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area

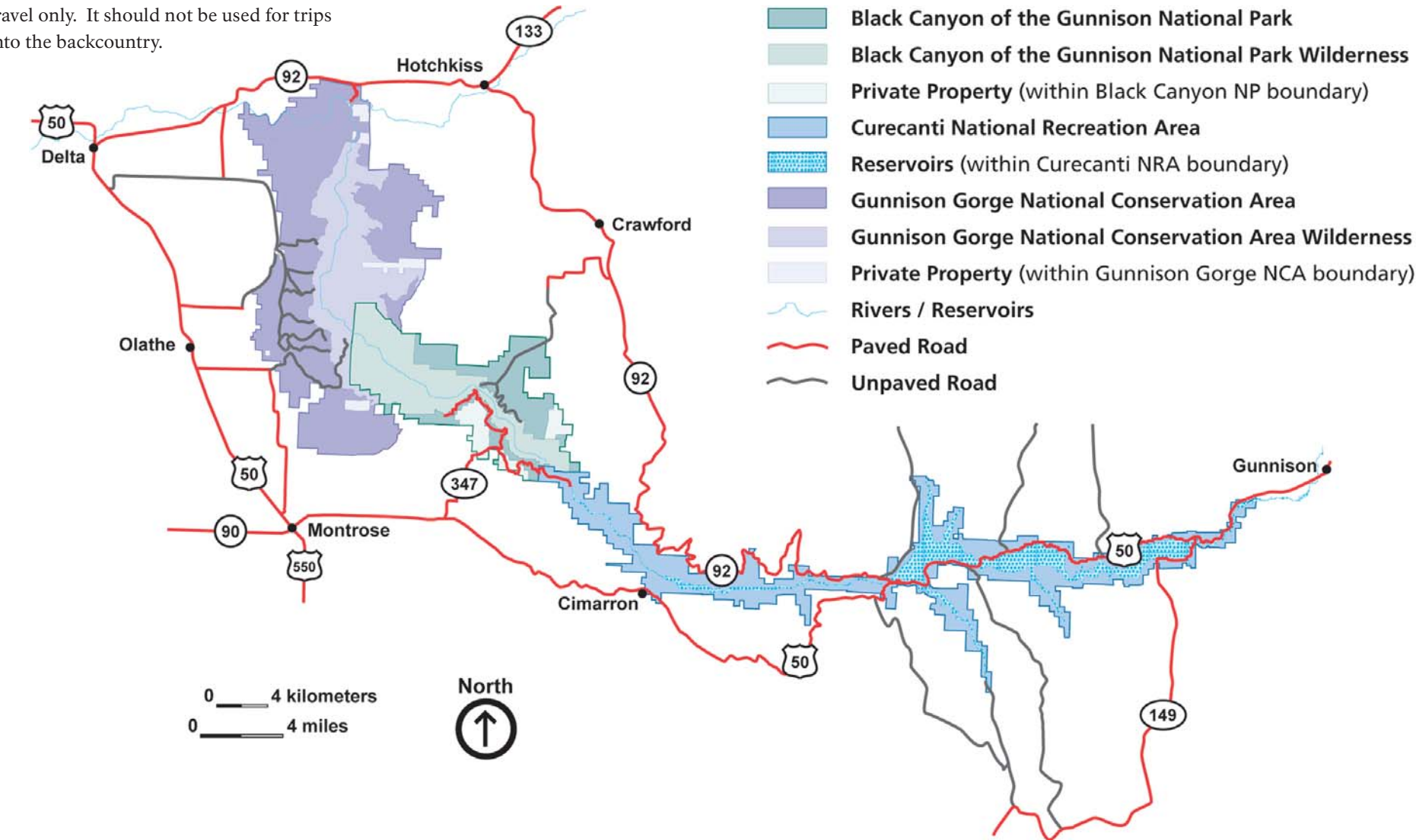
The map below is designed for general travel only. It should not be used for trips into the backcountry.





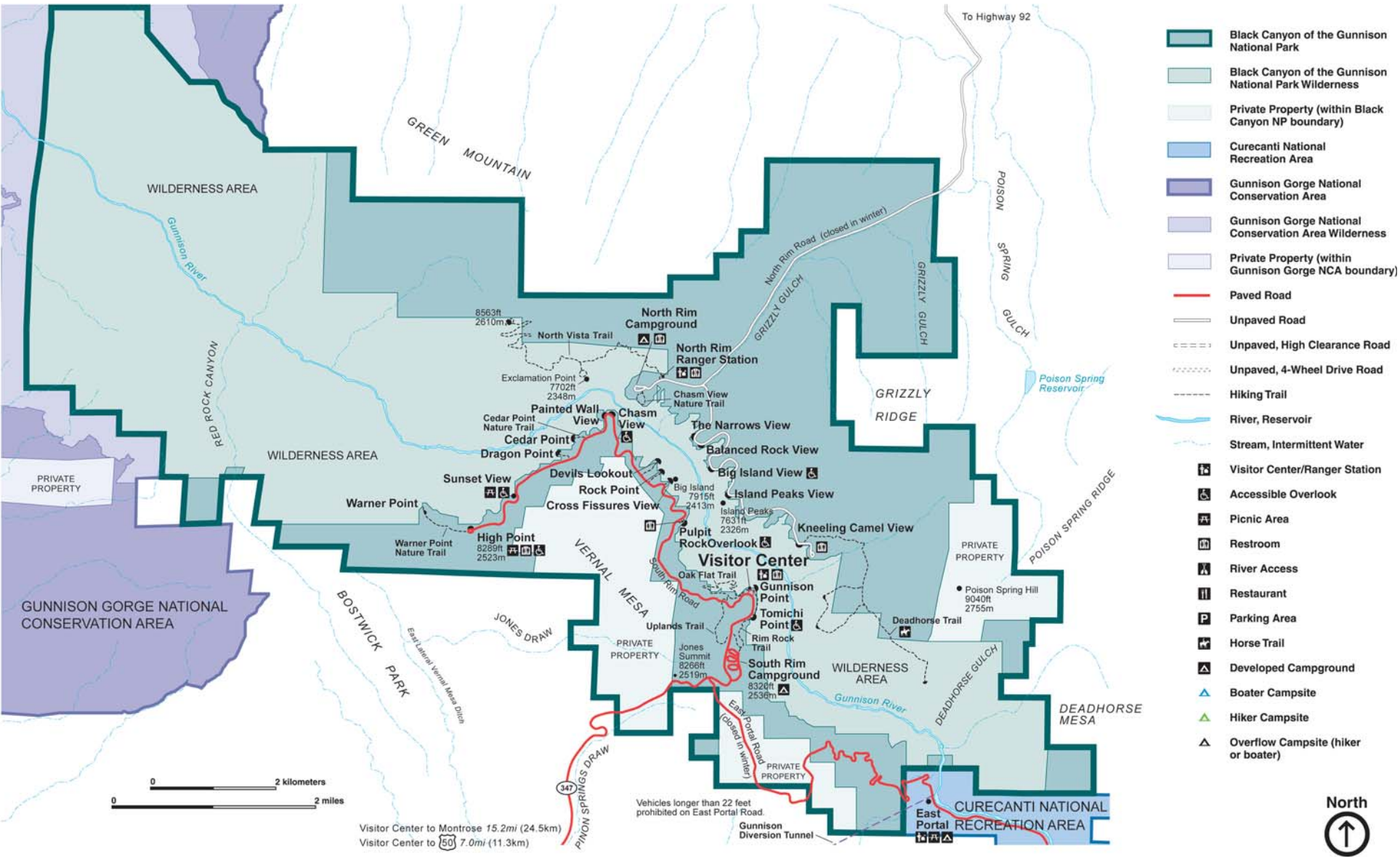
# Black Canyon, Curecanti, and Gunnison Gorge Area Map

The map below is designed for general travel only. It should not be used for trips into the backcountry.



## Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park

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# Books, Maps, and Guides

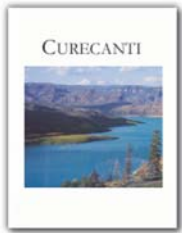
WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION is a non-profit membership organization authorized by Congress to aid and promote educational and scientific activities within more than 70 park sites in the American southwest.

WNPA has roots that stretch back to 1938 when a need was recognized for continuing the public’s interest and education in their national parks. Since then, they have helped millions to understand more of their natural and cultural history. They

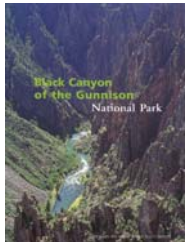
publish numerous trail guides, books and other materials that would otherwise be unavailable to the public. Members receive a 15% discount on all materials.



**Black Canyon**  
poster - 24" x 32"  
Item #B9998.....\$9.95  
Mailing tube.....\$2.00



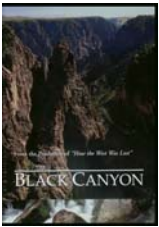
**Curecanti** poster  
24" x 32"  
Item #C7028.....\$5.00  
Mailing tube.....\$2.00



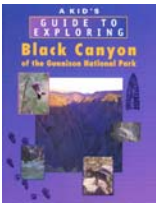
**Black Canyon of the Gunnison** - Houk. A general guide to the “great gorge”. Photography by Michael Collier. 15 pp.  
Item #B1008.....\$4.95



**Curecanti National Recreation Area** - Houk. A general guide to the recreation area. Photography by Michael Collier. 15pp.  
Item #C1600.....\$3.95



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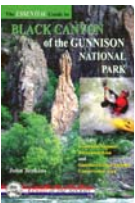
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## Fun Summer Program For Kids!

Do you know students from local communities who are looking for an exciting way to spend their summer? We’ve got just the program! The Annual Advanced Junior Ranger Camp invites local youngsters to explore their national parks through games, hikes, science, skits, and demonstrations.

The eight week program was a success last summer. Students created a model of the Black Canyon and cut away the layers while learning about geology and erosion. They watched a volcano bubble over and learned how volcanic rocks are formed. Curecanti Advanced Junior Rangers donned knee-

high rubber boots and learned what aquatic critters can tell us about stream quality.

Participants at both parks learned about local plants and animals, water, geology, and how to respect the outdoors by following the ethics of Leave No Trace. The summer closed with a family camping trip, and the presentation of their Advanced Junior Ranger badges.

This summer program is open to third and fourth graders, and takes place at Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP and Curecanti NRA. We ask that the participants commit to attending the program on a weekly basis

throughout the summer. If you have any questions about the program, or would like to register your child, please contact Education Specialist Susanna Ausema at (970) 641-2337 ext. 203, or via email: [susanna\\_ausema@nps.gov](mailto:susanna_ausema@nps.gov)



Local youngsters learn about Black Canyon and Curecanti during the annual Advanced Junior Ranger Program.

### The Visitor Guide

Funding for the 2006 Visitor Guide is provided by a grant from the Western National Parks Association.

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